

Save Stony Creek by Opposing Swap

July 10, 2004 | Patriot-News, The (Harrisburg, PA) | Page A07

Fort Indiantown Gap is trying to acquire 1,700 acres of State Game Lands No. 211 in Dauphin and Lebanon counties.

They want to swap Harrisburg's land in Clarks Valley with the game lands.

The Gap also wants to give \$3.6 million of our taxpaying citizens' money to the City of Harrisburg.

Citizens have the right to know where this money will be used. Another museum, fix roads or what?

As I write this, every single taxpaying citizen can walk on both lands freely. There are no permits, permission slips or military time limits; it's all free to the public. If this land swap takes place you can kiss this freedom goodbye. We will be subject to permits, safety courses and time limits.

The losers of this projected land swap will be Scouts, hikers, "bio-blitz" events, bird watchers, nature lovers, sportsmen and every taxpaying citizen in Dauphin and Lebanon counties.

Stony Creek Valley is the last wilderness left in Dauphin and Lebanon counties, without a road running through it -- no cars, trucks or land development.

The citizens already have access to both lands. We all lose 1,700 acres or seven miles of the most beautiful wilderness left in central Pennsylvania.

Urban sprawl must be contained, this land belongs to the people and must be kept in the public's hands, for everyone to use with unfettered access, no permits, no posted signs or military rules.

JOHN E. ROSSEY Harrisburg